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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/790,146	03/02/2004	Eugene I. Chong	19111.0143	3039
23517 7590 09/06/2007 BINGHAM MCCUTCHEN LLP 2020 K Street, N.W. Intellectual Property Department WASHINGTON, DC 20006			EXAMINER WU, YICUN	
			ART UNIT 2165	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/06/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,146

Applicant(s)

CHONG ET AL.

Examiner

Yicun Wu

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-9 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-4 and 10-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

yul
Patent Exam
2100

III. DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

2. In response to Applicants Amendments and remarks, objections made in office action mailed 1/3/2007 are hereby withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 are objected to because of the following informalities: the Examiner is not clear about the meaning of the claim. “organized using the secondary B+tree”. How is organized defined? Does applicant mean “index-organized” as in applicant’s specification? Does applicant mean “organized using the secondary B+tree **index**”?

Appropriate clarification/correction is required.

Claims 5-16 are objected to because of the following informalities: the Examiner is not clear about the meaning of the claim. Specifically, which “B+tree” is applicant refers to as in retrieving data stored in a database system using the secondary index for a B+tree”? Is this “B+tree” a secondary “B+tree” since “a primary B+tree” is in the claim language?

Appropriate clarification/correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefore, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. In response to Applicants Amendments and remarks, Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 101 to claims 1-14 and 16 in office action mailed 1/3/2007 are hereby withdrawn.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claims are directed to a non-statutory subject matter, specifically, directed towards "computer readable medium".

computer program claimed as computer listings per se, i.e., the descriptions or expressions of the programs, are not physical "things." They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not "acts" being performed. Such claimed computer programs do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized. In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. See Lowry, 32 F.3d at 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d at 1035. Accordingly, it is important to distinguish claims that define descriptive material per se from claims that define statutory inventions.

Page 15, lines 15-20 is evidence that Applicant intends for “computer readable medium” to include embodiments where the medium is not limited to the media that the Office believes are capable of realizing the underlying functionality of the instructions.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5-9 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,266,660) in view of Whang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,349,308).

As to Claim 1, Liu et al. discloses a system for organizing and accessing a database, the system comprising:

- a primary B-tree index (col. 2, lines 30-45);
- a secondary B-tree index (col. 2, lines 30-45);
- a plurality of mapping table row identifiers stored in the secondary B-tree index (col. 2, lines 30-45);

where each mapping row identifier is an entry in a row of the secondary B-tree index and uniquely identifies a row within a mapping table (fig. 2);

- a first plurality of database addresses for leaf blocks of the primary B-tree index stored in the secondary B-tree (fig. 2); and

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a corresponding number of database addresses for leaf blocks of the primary B-tree index stored in row of the mapping table (fig. 2-3) , wherein data stored within the primary B-tree is accessed and organized using the secondary B-tree or mapping table to mapping table rows (col. 2, lines 30-45).

Liu et al. does not teach a B+tree.

Whang et al. teaches a B+tree (Fig. 2-5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu et al. with a B+tree.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Liu et al. by the teaching of Whang et al. because providing the B+tree allows proper handling of deletion as taught by Whang et al. (Col. 3, line 14-18).

As to Claims 2 and 14, Liu et al. as modified teaches a system, wherein 4 bytes of the database addresses are stored in the secondary B+tree index (it is well known in the art to store 4 bytes of the database addresses).

As to Claims 5, 15 -16, Liu et al. as modified teaches a method for managing a database system, the method comprising:

creating a secondary index (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45) for a B+tree structure(Whang et al. Fig. 2), wherein the secondary index structure comprises a plurality of rows each comprising an index key value (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45), a mapping table rowid value that uniquely

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identifies a row within a mapping table (Liu et al., fig. 2-3) and a guess-database address value that represents an address block of a primary B-tree where a row may be found (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45 and Fig. 2-3); and retrieving data stored in the database system using the secondary index for a B-tree (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45 and Fig. 2-3).

As to Claim 6, Liu et al. as modified teach inserting a row of the secondary index structure, wherein inserting the row comprises inserting a row comprising an index key value, a mapping table rowid value and a guess database address value (Whang et al. Fig. 4 and 5).

As to Claim 7, Liu et al. as modified teaches a method comprising:
deleting a row of the secondary index, wherein deleting the row comprises locating a row comprising an index key value and a mapping table row identifier and deleting the row (Whang et al. Fig. 4 and 5).

As to Claim 8, Liu et al. as modified teaches a method comprising:
updating the secondary index, wherein updating the secondary index comprises locating a row of the secondary index comprising an old index key and a mapping table row identifier, deleting the row and inserting in the row a new index key value, a mapping table row identifier and a guess database address (Whang et al. Fig. 4 and 5).

As to Claim 9, Liu et al. as modified teaches a method, further comprising carrying out a query utilizing the secondary index, wherein carrying out the query comprises:

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utilizing a guess-database address stored as part of a secondary index row to find a row in the primary B+tree structure (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45) and (Whang et al. Fig. 2);

obtaining a target database block from the row in the primary B+tree structure (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45) and (Whang et al. Fig. 2);

searching the target database block for a row that contains a mapping table row identifier that is the same as a mapping table row identifier stored in the secondary index row (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45) and (Whang et al. Fig. 2); and

if the row in the database block matches the target database block, then the correct row in the database has been located and the query is completed (Liu et al. col. 2, lines 30-45) and (Whang et al. Fig. 2-5).

Allowable Subject Matter


5. Claims 3-4, and 10-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and if rewritten to overcome the objection and rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 101 set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yicun Wu whose telephone number is 571-272-4087. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Yicun Wu 
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

August 31, 2007